

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein
a depth L_i (i is a natural number of 1 to n , and is attached in a sequential order from the
club having the smallest loft angle in the set) of center of gravity corresponding to a
distance between the center of gravity of the head and
the sweet spot satisfies the following conditions (5) and (6):
(5) $L_1 \geq \dots \geq L_2 \geq \dots \geq L_n$; and
(6) $L_1 > L_n$.
4. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein the thin
portion occupies 15 to 70% of the free deflection area.
5. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein
the thickness of the thin portion is between 1.2 and 2.0 mm, and
the thickness of the thick portion is between 2.0 and 4.0 mm, and
the difference between the thickness of the thick portion and the thickness of the thin
portion is between 0.2 and 1.5 mm.
6. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein the thin
portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a horizontal length W_b on a
side of ~~the~~ a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal length W_a on a side of ~~the~~ a top
portion of the head.

7. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein
the thin portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a horizontal
length W_b on a side of ~~the~~ a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal length
 W_a on a side of ~~the~~ a top portion of the head, and
a ratio (W_b/W_a) of the lengths is between 1.0 and 4.5.
8. (new) An iron type golf club set of n (n : an integer equal to or more than three) numbers of
iron type golf clubs having different head loft angles, wherein
the head comprises a face plate having a hitting face on its front, and a head main body
provided with a face receiving portion supporting a peripheral edge portion of the
face plate around an opening portion,
the face plate has one thin portion having the smallest thickness and at least one thick
portion having a larger thickness than the thin portion, in a free deflection area in
which a back surface faces to the opening portion, and
in a standard state where the head is mounted on a horizontal plane by a specified lie
angle and loft angle,
a horizontal distance X_i along the hitting face between a face center and a center of figure
of the thin portion and a horizontal distance S_i along the hitting face between the face
center and a sweet spot which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of
gravity of the head to the hitting face satisfy the following conditions (1) to (4):
(1) $X_1 \leq X_2 \leq \dots \leq X_n$;
(2) $X_1 < X_n$;
(3) $S_1 \leq S_2 \leq \dots \leq S_n$; and
(4) $S_1 < S_n$;
wherein
said horizontal distance X_i is negative in the case where the center of figure exists on a
toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the center of
figure exists on a heel side relative to the face center,

said horizontal distance S_i is negative in the case where the sweet spot exists on a toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the sweet spot exists on a heel side relative to the face center, and further the reference symbol i is a natural number of 1 to n and is given in a sequential order from the club having the smallest loft angle in the set.

9. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the set comprises:
 - at least one long iron having the head with the loft angle of not more than 28 degrees and the horizontal distance X_i of from -5 to 0 mm;
 - at least one middle iron having the head with the loft angle being larger than 28 degrees and equal to or less than 41 degrees and the horizontal distance X_i of from -3 to 3 mm; and
 - at least one short iron having the head with the loft angle of not less than 41 degrees and the horizontal distance X_i of from 0 to 5 mm.
10. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 9, wherein
 - the horizontal distance X_i of the middle iron is larger than that of the long iron, and
 - the horizontal distance X_i of the short iron is larger than that of the middle iron.
11. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the sweet spot is provided so as to be substantially coincided with the center of figure of the thin portion in each head.
12. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the sweet spot is provided in the thin portion in each head.
13. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein a horizontal distance between the center of figure of the thin portion and the sweet spot is set within 2 mm.
14. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the set comprises
 - at least one long iron having the head with the loft angle of not more than 28 degrees and
 - at least one short iron having the head with the loft angle of not less than 41 degrees, and

each head of the long iron and short iron comprises a weight member having a greater specific gravity than that of each head main body, and
the weight member of the long iron is attached to the toe side of the head main body and
the weight member of the short iron is attached to the heel side of the head main body.

15. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the set comprises
at least one long iron having the head with the loft angle of not more than 28 degrees,
at least one middle iron having the head with the loft angle being larger than 28 degrees
and equal to or less than 41 degrees and
at least one short iron having the head with the loft angle of not less than 41 degrees,
the head of the long iron has one thin portion being formed on the side of the toe of the
free deflection area and one thick portion being formed on the side of the heel,
the head of the middle iron has one thin portion being formed approximately in the center
of the free deflection area and two thick portions being formed on both sides of the
thin portion, and
the head of the short iron has one thin portion being formed on the heel side from the
center of the free deflection area and one thick portion being formed on the toe side of
the thin portion.
16. (new) An iron type golf club set of n (n: an integer equal to or more than three) numbers of
iron type golf clubs having different head loft angles, wherein
the head comprises a face plate having a hitting face on its front, and a head main body
provided with a face receiving portion supporting a peripheral edge portion of the
face plate around an opening portion,
the face plate has one thin portion having the smallest thickness and at least one thick
portion having a larger thickness than the thin portion, in a free deflection area in
which a back surface faces to the opening portion,
said the thin portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a
horizontal length W_b on a side of a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal
length W_a on a side of a top portion of the head, and

in a standard state where the head is mounted on a horizontal plane by a specified lie angle and loft angle, a horizontal distance X_i along the hitting face between a face center and a center of figure of the thin portion satisfies the following conditions (1) and (2):

(1) $X_1 \leq X_2 \leq \dots \leq X_n$; and

(2) $X_1 < X_n$;

wherein the horizontal distance X_i is negative in the case where the center of figure exists on a toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the center of figure exists on a heel side relative to the face center, and further reference symbol i is a natural number of 1 to n and is given in a sequential order from the club having the smallest loft angle in the set.